

Attorney's Docket No. 9305-11IP

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Gillette et al.

Confirmation No.: 4941

Serial No.: 10/643,610

Group Art Unit: 1771

Filed: August 19, 2003

Examiner: Piziali, Andrew T.

For: **SPUNLACED LOOP MATERIAL FOR A REFASTENABLE FASTENING
DEVICE AND METHODS OF MAKING SAME**

DECLARATION OF A. FRANK BALDWIN, JR.
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

I, A. Frank Baldwin, Jr., declare as follows:

1. I am a named inventor of the above-referenced patent application, United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/643,610, entitled "Spunlaced Loop Material for a Refastenable Fastening Device and Methods of Making Same", filed August 19, 2003.

2. We have discovered a novel method of forming loop structures from spunlaced fiber that can be used as a female component of a hook and loop fastening system. This novel method, which is the subject of the above-referenced patent application, forms loops structures by entangling the fibers of a spunlaced fabric, without requiring any bonding whatsoever. Prior to our invention, prior art loop structures used for female components of hook and loop fastening systems required a certain amount of fiber bonding to produce loops suitable for receiving and retaining hooks from a male component of a hook and loop fastening system.

3. I am familiar with and understand the nonwoven female component described in U.S. Patent No. 5,326,612 to Goulait ("Goulait"). Goulait requires that fibers be thermally bonded together to form loop structures. Goulait describes initially bonding loose, unbonded fibers to a backing layer. However, to form loop structures suitable for a female component of a hook and loop fastening system, these loose, unbonded fibers must ultimately be bonded. This would be clear to those skilled in the art upon reading Goulait in its entirety.

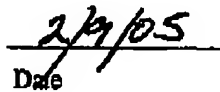
Serial No. 10643,610

Declaration of A. Frank Baldwin, Jr.

Page 2

4. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the United States code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.


A. Frank Baldwin, Jr.


Date